

Appl. No. 10/536,979
AMENDMENT of May 5, 2009
Reply to Office Action of February 5, 2009

Amendments to the Claims:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An alcohol beverage container assembly comprising:
 - a keg having ~~flange that defines~~ a keg aperture;
 - a bag contained in the keg for containing an alcohol beverage, the bag having a neck for supporting the bag in the keg, the neck having a peripheral wall portion sized less than that of the keg aperture, and the neck having a central passageway extending into the bag that is adapted to receive a beverage filling and dispensing valve assembly; and,
 - an interlocking collar mounted in press fit surrounding relation with the peripheral wall portion of the neck, the collar having an outer peripheral wall portion sized larger than that of the keg aperture,

characterized in that said keg has a flange defining the keg aperture and the collar having
has a recessed groove in the collar outer peripheral wall portion for receiving the keg flange in
press fitting and sealing relation therewith, and the collar outer peripheral wall portion having a
resilient edge portion adjacent the recessed groove that deflects to permit the interlocking collar
to pass through the keg aperture and receive the keg flange in the recessed groove,

wherein the interlocking collar has a plurality of locking passageways placed around the
interlocking collar and axially extending through the interlocking collar between the neck and
recessed groove, and the container assembly having a latch member with a plurality of locking

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fingers adapted to extend axially through the locking passageways to prevent deflection of the resilient edge portion of the interlocking collar.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The alcohol beverage container assembly of claim 1, ~~container assembly of claim 2~~ wherein:

the peripheral outer wall portion of the neck comprises an out-turned flange for mounting the bag thereto, the neck has an inwardly tapering wall axially spaced adjacent the out-turned flange, a first recessed slot extending around the neck and axially spaced adjacent the inwardly tapering wall, and a second recessed slot extending around the neck and axially spaced adjacent the first recessed slot;

wherein the interlocking collar is received in the first recessed slot of the neck in press fit sealing relation therewith; and

the latch member has a support base having an inner aperture defining an inwardly directed flange received in the second recessed slot of the neck in press fit, sealing, and locking relation therewith, and the locking fingers extend axially from the support base, and each locking finger has a lead-in finger tip portion that curves outwardly and abuts the tapered wall of the neck to be forced into locking engagement with the resilient edge portion of the interlocking collar.

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4. (Currently Amended) The alcohol beverage container assembly of claim 3, wherein the second recessed slot comprises a v-shaped recessed notch.

5. (Currently Amended) The container assembly of claim 1, wherein the keg flange is raised.

6. (Currently Amended) An alcohol beverage container assembly comprising according to claim 1:

wherein said [[a]] keg aperture has a ~~having a flange that defines an aperture of first~~
predetermined diameter, ~~[[;]]~~ said

~~a bag contained in the keg for containing an alcohol beverage, the bag having a neck for~~
~~supporting the bag in the keg, the neck having a peripheral wall portion of~~ said neck has a
second predetermined diameter being less than the first predetermined diameter of the keg
aperture, ~~and the neck having a central passageway extending into the bag that is adapted to~~
~~receive a valve body for beverage filling and dispensing the alcohol beverage into and out from~~
~~the bag; and~~ ~~[[,]]~~ wherein the

~~an interlocking collar mounted in pres-fit surrounding relation with the peripheral wall~~
~~portion of the neck, the collar having an outer peripheral wall portion of~~ said collar has ~~having a~~
third predetermined diameter greater than the first predetermined diameter ~~of the keg flange, the~~
~~collar having a recessed groove in the collar outer peripheral wall portion for receiving the keg~~

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~~flange in press-fitting relation therewith, and the collar outer peripheral wall portion having a resilient edge portion adjacent the recessed groove that deflects to permit the interlocking collar to pass through the key aperture to receive the key flange in the recessed groove in press-fitting and sealing relation.~~

7. (Currently Amended) The container assembly of claim 6, wherein the interlocking collar has a plurality of locking passageways placed around the interlocking collar and axially extending through the interlocking collar between the neck and recessed ~~grove~~ groove, and the container assembly having a latch member with a plurality of locking fingers adapted to extend axially ~~through~~ through the locking passageways to prevent deflection of the resilient edge portion of the interlocking collar.

8. (Original) The container assembly of claim 7 wherein:

the peripheral outer wall portion of the neck comprises an out-turned flange for mounting the bag thereto, the neck has an inwardly tapering wall axially spaced adjacent the out-turned flange, a first recessed slot extending around the neck and axially spaced adjacent the inwardly tapering wall, and a second recessed slot extending around the neck and axially spaced adjacent the first recessed slot;

wherein the interlocking collar is received in the first recessed slot of the neck in press fit sealing relation therewith; and

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the latch member has a support base having an inner aperture defining an inwardly directed flange received in the second recessed slot of the neck in press fit, sealing, and locking relation therewith, and the locking fingers extend axially from the support base, and each locking finger has a lead-in finger tip portion that curves outwardly and abuts the tapered wall of the neck to be forced into locking engagement with the resilient edge portion of the interlocking collar.

9. (Original) The container assembly of claim 8 wherein the second recessed slot comprises a v-shaped recessed notch.

10. (Canceled)

11. (New) An alcohol beverage container assembly of claim 1, wherein said valve assembly comprises a valve body adapted for beverage filling and dispensing the alcohol beverage into and out from the bag.

12. (New) An alcohol beverage container assembly of claim 6, wherein said valve assembly comprises a valve body adapted for beverage filling and dispensing the alcohol beverage into and out from the bag.